

*Occultation of  $\gamma$  Virginis, 1886.* By F. C. Penrose.

A few remarks on an observation of an occultation of  $\gamma$  *Virginis* on the 18th inst. may be interesting to the Royal Astronomical Society.

The morning was fine, but there were some slight clouds, and one was over the Moon near the time predicted for the reappearance, so that I could not see the grey Moon, and, as I was dependent on the position-angle at the vertex, could not use a power high enough to separate the star properly, but I think the observation was more interesting and beautiful in consequence.

At G.M.T.,  $\pm$  say 2<sup>s</sup>, 16<sup>h</sup> 33<sup>m</sup> 32<sup>s</sup>, a bright flash showed the reappearance of  $\gamma_1$ , and exactly 10 seconds later was another flash, which seemed to double the brightness of the star.

The time was corrected by altitudes of east and west stars observed at nearly the same altitude and azimuth with a theodolite.

I got several positions of Barnard's Comet, particularly Nov. 29, Dec. 4, and Dec. 9, but they are probably liable to errors of two or three minutes of arc.

Approximate place of station, longitude 1<sup>h</sup> 34<sup>m</sup> 58<sup>s</sup> E., and latitude 37° 58' 15" N.

*Athens: 1886, Dec. 26.*

*Occultation of Aldebaran, Jan. 6, 1887.* By the Rev.  
S. J. Johnson, M.A.

The occultation of *Aldebaran* on the 6th was observed here very favourably. Disappearance at 12<sup>h</sup> 12<sup>m</sup> 49<sup>s</sup> was instantaneous; not the slightest lingering or projection on the limb, though a portion of the Moon's dark limb was left, and the sky around was perfectly clear. The star seemed to lose its redness as the Moon approached it; the emersion at 13<sup>h</sup> 14<sup>m</sup> 5<sup>s</sup> not nearly so sudden. Star seemed to creep out leisurely from a point just north of the Mare Crisium, but some haze was present. Power 50 employed, on 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch. Time by sextant.

*Melplash Vicarage, Dorset:*  
1887, Jan. 10.

Observations of Comet f 1886 (Barnard), made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

(Communicated by the Astronomer Royal.)

The observations were made with the East or Sheepshanks Equatorial, aperture 6·7 inches, by taking transits over two cross-wires at right angles to each other, and each inclined 45° to the parallel of Declination.

Comet f 1886 (Barnard).

1886. Dec. 14	Greenwich Mean Solar Time.			Observer.	☿-★ R.A.		Corr. for Par. and Refract. in R.A.		♄-★ N.P.D.		Corr. for Par. and Refract. in N.P.D.	No. of Comp.	Apparent R.A.			Apparent N.P.D.			Comp. Star.
	h	m	s		m	s	°	'	"	h			m	s	°	'	"		
	5	15	41	H. T.	+ 1	16'50	+ 0'40	- 8° 38'2	- 6'6	3	17	33	9'80	74	55	57'4	a		
14	5	30	1	H. T.	- 2	43'43	+ 0'40	+ 10° 43'6	- 5'2	3	17	33	19'57	74	56	12'8	b		
16	5	17	25	H.	- 0	11'33	+ 0'30	+ 3° 20'4	- 5'7	3	17	51	42'07	76	1	55'6	c		
16	5	35	27	H.	- 0	48'90	+ 0'40	+ 4° 38'7	- 5'7	2	17	51	49'80	76	2	16'2	d		

Mean Places of Comparison Stars.

Star's Name.	R.A. 1886°.			N.P.D. 1886°.			Authority.
	h	m	s	h	m	s	
(a) W.B. (2) XVII. 929-30	17	31	52·19	75	4	49·9	Weisse's Bessel (2)
(b) W.B. (2) XVII. 1110-11	17	36	1·89	74	45	42·4	Washington Catalogue 1860
(c) W.B. XVII. 1033	17	51	52·31	75	58	53·2	Weisse's Bessel
(d) W.B. XVII. 1057	17	52	37·62	75	57	52·3	" "

The observations are corrected for parallax and refraction. The initials H. T. and H. are those of Mr. Turner and Mr. Hollis respectively.